

Docket No. F-7369

Ser. No. 10/089,015

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please find accompanying this response a replacement sheet for Fig. 1
wherein amendments explained in the Remarks presented below are effected.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-21 are rejected. New claims 22-24 are added. Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 11, 13, 16-19 are amended herein to clarify the invention and to address matters of form unrelated to substantive patentability issues.

OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION

The specification is objected to for using reference designator 34a to reference two different features, namely the "inward ring-like projections" and the "outer diameter side." The specification and Fig. 1 are amended to reference the "inward ring-like projections" with reference designator 34c. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 1-21 are rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The Office Action cites various informalities in the claim language including confusing wording and double inclusion.

The Office Action states that the use of the terms "inner diameter side of the pulley" and "inner diameter surface of the pulley" used in claims 1, 7, 8,

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10, 11, 16, 17 and 19 appear to be two different and distinct limitations. The claims are now amended to remove recitation of "inner diameter side of the pulley" to obviate any confusion. The claims are further amended to remove double inclusions of the "inner diametrical surface of the pulley."

The Office Action further indicates that claims 3, 7, 8, 10 and 16-19 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if amended to overcome the §112, second paragraph rejection. Applicant further notes that claim 13 is not rejected based on prior art and accordingly submits that claim 13 includes allowable subject matter similar to that of claim 3. Claims 3, 13 and 18 are now respectively presented in independent form of claims 22, 23 and 24. Claims 7, 8, 10, 16 and 19 remain in independent form. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-21 and the allowance of claims 7, 8, 10, 16, 19 and 22-24 are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 20 are rejected as obvious over Wagner in view of Kajihara under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claim 6 is rejected as obvious over Wagner in view of Kajihara under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The applicant herein respectfully traverses this rejection. For a rejection under 35

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U.S.C. §103(a) to be sustained, the differences between the features of the combined references and the present invention must be obvious to one skilled in the art.

The rejected claims are now amended to clarify the step feature of the retainer. The Examiner has cited the Kajihara reference for teaching a step comprised of the reduced outer diameter section 5w-a of the retainer. The section cited is, however, merely a slope which does not involve a step configuration with two adjoined surfaces. In order to clarify the step distinction of the present invention, the step feature is now reflected in the following limitations found in claim 1 and the other independent rejected claims:

said retainer of said roller bearing has an annular portion facing to a side of a first seal ring of said seal rings, an outer cylindrical circumferential surface extending axially inward from said annular portion and having a first retainer diameter, a second retainer diameter greater than said first retainer diameter, and at least one radially planar surface extending from said outer cylindrical circumferential surface to said second retainer diameter thereby defining a step between said annular portion and said second retainer diameter, so as to increase a storage volume for lubricating oil between said roller bearing and said first seal ring.

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The Kajihara reference is devoid of the teaching of the outer cylindrical circumferential surface joined to a second retainer diameter, greater than a first retainer diameter of the outer cylindrical circumferential surface, by a radially planar surface. Instead, the surface 5w-a is a frustoconical surface and as such would not provide as much volume increase as the claimed configuration.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims are not obvious in view of the cited references for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 20 and their allowance are respectfully requested.

CLAIM FEES

Three further claims in excess of twenty including three independent claims in excess of three are added. The fee of \$750.00 (\$600.00 + \$150.00) for the claims is provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038, Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Applicant respectfully requests a one month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. The fee of \$120.00 for the extension is

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**provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038,
Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.**

If there is any discrepancy between the fee(s) due and the fee payment authorized in the Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 or the Form PTO-2038 is missing or fee payment via the Form PTO-2038 cannot be processed, the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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enc: Form PTO-2038; and Replacement drawing sheet of Figs. 1.